

Remarks: The Tornidae are poorly known both at the generic and specific level, which makes the correct assignment of a new species to a genus difficult. The placing of the new species in *Cochliolepis* is only tentative, though it is similar to that genus in the possession of simple shell features and sunken protoconch. The genus typically ranges from Virginia to West Florida, some species being known to be associated with other animals. There is only one other tornid described from New Zealand, *Naricava (Tropidorbis) neozelanica* Powell.

Laseron (1958, *Rec. Aust. Mus.*, 24, p. 176) has included some shells resembling *C. albiceratus* in *Microdiscula* Thiele to which they have no real resemblance. The species in question are *M. involuta* Laseron, *M. planorbis* Laseron, and *M. augmenta* Laseron, and these should probably also be referred to *Cochliolepis* as they are clearly tornids.

CHITON COLLECTING AT PORT GAWLER, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

By K. L. MILNE*

Messrs. George Buick, Max Tilbook and the author went on an expedition to Port Gawler, South Australia, for the purpose of checking the statement of Cotton and Godfrey (1940) *The Molluscs of South Australia*, Part II, p. 469, that chitons may be found, among other stations, "... amongst the roots of mangroves ...". Also on p. 521, referring to *Acanthochiton bednalli*, "The species seems to prefer shallow water and muddy places and is often plentiful near mangrove swamps and similar situations."

One species identified as a variation of *Acanthochiton bednalli* (Pilsbry) was found in considerable numbers. Over 100 specimens were taken between the three of us in about 1½ hours, once their habitat was located. They were found in the mangrove swamps, at Port Gawler, at the southern end of the bay, about 30 to 50 yards inland from the outer edge of the line of trees, at low tide.

They were mostly found on the pneumatophores of the mangroves just above or just below the sand-mud. A few specimens were found on drift deposited bubble weed and old bits of sea-weed. Several large specimens were also found on the underside of old branches or pieces of wood half submerged at low tide. Those on pneumatophores could be found either by pulling up the pneumatophores or merely by removing the bubble weed and bending the pneumatophores so that the part below the sandy mud was visible, thus exposing the chitons, if present.

The large older specimens were usually found just above the sand-mud, while the juveniles and smaller specimens were nearly always below it.

The interesting point is that, as far as we know, this is the only known instance of chitons having been found living on a substance other than rocks or living sea-weed in South Australia. It was surprising to us to find them living on old submerged or partly submerged boughs and pieces of cut wood. This was apparently a preferred habitat for them, because in two instances there were three large specimens on such pieces of wood. Specimens were taken from mangrove roots some years ago by the late B. C. Cotton, but to our knowledge no precise details of the habitat were given.

* 14 Burlington Street, Walkerville, South Australia.